

Message Text

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ACTION AF-18

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 ADP-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-09 H-02

INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-03 RSC-01 PRS-01 SS-15

USIA-12 OMB-01 RSR-01 /112 W
----- 084541

R 020950 Z MAY 73

FM AMEMBASSY CAPE TOWN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3448

INFO AMCONSUL DURBAN

AMEMBASSY GABORONE

AMCONSUL JOHANNESBURG

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY MASERU

AMEMBASSY MBABANE

AMEMBASSY PRETORIA

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE CAPE TOWN 326

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PGOV, PBOR, SF

SUBJ: HOMELANDS CONSOLIDATION PLANS ADVANCE

REF: CAPE TOWN A-30

1. MINISTER OF BANTU ADMINISTRATION AND DEVELOPMENT
M. C. BOTHA ANNOUNCED APRIL 27 THAT "FINAL" PLANS
FOR THE TERRITORIAL CONSOLIDATION OF SIX AFRICAN HOMELANDS
(OUT OF POSSIBLE TEN) HAD BEEN REFERRED TO HOUSE OF
ASSEMBLY AND SENATE COMMITTEES ON BANTU AFFAIRS. THIS
IS FIRST STEP IN LEGISLATIVE PROCESS WHICH, GOVERNMENT
CONFIDENTLY EXPECTS, WILL SET SEAL ON LONG AWAITED
MAP OF SEPARATE DEVELOPMENT.

2. PLANS FOR VENDA, LEBOWA, GAZANKULU, SWAZI, BASOTHO
QWA QWA AND KWA ZULU HOMELANDS WERE TABLED APRIL 27.
PLAN FOR BOPHUTHATSWANA WAS " STILL BEING WORKED ON",
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ACCORDING TO MINISTER. CISKEI CONSOLIDATION PLAN WAS APPROVED AT 1972 PARLIAMENTARY SESSION (CAPE TOWN A-53, JUNE 2, 1972). PLANS FOR TRANSKEI AND NDEBELE HOMELANDS NOT YET KNOWN.

3. AMONG FEW DETAILS DISCLOSED BY BOTHA WAS FACT THAT MORE THAN 360,000 BLACKS AND AN UNDISCLOSED NUMBER OF WHITES WOULD EVENTUALLY HAVE TO BE RELOCATED TO IMPLEMENT CONSOLIDATION PLANS. NEARLY TWO MILLION HECTARES WOULD BE EXCHANGED BY BLACK AND WHITE AREAS, WITH HOMELANDS GAINING NEARLY FOUR HUNDRED THOUSAND HECTARES IN THE PROCESS, HE SAID. BOTHA COULD NOT " EVEN GIVE A ROUGH ESTIMATE OF THE TIME OR THE MONEY INVOLVED" IN THIS EXERCISE. INTERESTINGLY, HE INDICATED THAT VENDALAND WOULD LOSE " UNINHABITED" AREA ALONG RHODESIAN / SOUTH AFRICAN BORDER NOW USED FOR " MILITARY EXERCISES" BY SAG. VENDA GOVERNMENT WAS " NOT AT ALL CONCERNED" BY THIS LOSS, ACCORDING TO BOTHA, WHICH WAS MORE THAN COMPENSATED BY TERRITORIAL ADDITIONS ELSEWHERE.

4. COMMENT: SAG IS PROCEEDING WITH CONSOLIDATION PLANS IN FACE OF AVOWED OPPOSITION OF THREE OF MOST IMPORTANT HOMELAND LEADERS, BUTHELEZI (KWA ZULU), MATANZIMA (TRANSKEI) AND MANGOPE (BOPHUTHATSWANA), WHO SAY THAT GOVERNMENT MUST HAND OVER MUCH MORE " WHITE" TERRITORY TO PROVE SINCERITY OF SEPARATE DEVELOPMENT. OPPOSITION UNITED PARTY ALSO REJECTS CONSOLIDATION AS IRRELEVANT AND SELF- DEFEATING EXERCISE IN CONTEXT OF SOUTH AFRICA' S MOUNTING URBAN AND INDUSTRIAL PROBLEMS. CONSOLIDATION DEBATE IN AND OUT OF PARLIAMENT, THEREFORE, PROMISES TO BE HOT ONE WITH IMPLICATIONS FOR COUNTRY' S FUTURE POLITICAL STABILITY.

HURD

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*** Current Handling Restrictions *** n/a

*** Current Classification *** LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: n/a
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 02 MAY 1973
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: elyme
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1973CAPET00326
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: n/a
Errors: n/a
Film Number: n/a
From: CAPE TOWN
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1973/newtext/t19730533/aaaahkdbd.tel
Line Count: 96
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE
Office: ACTION AF
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 73 CAPE TOWN A-30
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: elyme
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 02 AUG 2001
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <02-Aug-2001 by shawdg>; APPROVED <30-Jan-2002 by elyme>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: <DBA CORRECTED> mcm 971117
Subject: HOMELANDS CONSOLIDATION PLANS ADVANCE
TAGS: PGOV, SF, PBOR
To: AF
DURBAN
GABORONE
JOHANNESBURG
LONDON
MASERU
MBABANE

PRETORIA

SECSTATE WASHDC

Type: TE

Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005